



Pete Cacchione — His Record

By S. W. GERSON

INTRODUCTION

IT'S not a temple or a cathedral. Just a little tailor's place or the neighborhood barber shop or a public school. But there's something sacred about it to Americans.

It's a polling place, and on Nov. 2, if you're 21 and have registered, that is, you're going to cast your vote like a free man. You're going to help elect judges, the Lieutenant Governor and City Councilmen.

After you've signed your name in the registration book, you'll walk into a booth, pull the curtain after you and vote on the machine for candidates of your choice.

Then, as you come out, you'll be handed a paper ballot on which are a list of candidates for City Council. You vote by boroughs. If you're a Brooklynite you'll see among those names, this one:

Peter V. Cacchione Comm.

This little pamphlet is the story of Pete Cacchione's record in office. It is the record on which he is running for re-election and which has inspired persons of many political views to join in a Citizens Non-Partisan Committee for his re-election.

It is the record which inspires the Communist candidates in other boroughs—Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Manhattan; Isidore Begun, The Bronx; and Paul Crosbie, Queens.

All we ask is that you read the record.

S. W. GERSON



OLD AL SMITH had the word for it. "Let's look at the record," he used to say.

Then he'd go to town, either demolishing his opponent or building up his candidate, just by a close examination of the record.

And that's fair enough, most people will agree. Let's look at the record today, when hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers are preparing to vote for members of the City Council.

Let's examine the record of Peter V. Cacchione of Brooklyn. (Everybody in Brooklyn calls him Pete, just like they call the Dodgers by their first names.) Pete is a Communist, elected in 1941 with about 48,000 votes, about 5,000 of them coming from Communists. The rest came from non-members of the Communist Party who supported Pete because of his program and his unceasing work in behalf of the common man.

His record as a private citizen was what endeared him to tens of thousands of people. A World War veteran, Pete was active in the fight for the soldiers' bonus and for more liberal treatment of all ex-servicemen and their families. When the crash hit America, Pete was in the thick of the fight for relief and unemployment insurance. He helped the unorganized workers organize into strong trade unions and win higher pay and better conditions.

When he saw black men and women discriminated against because of their color, Pete fought it in every way. Likewise, when he witnessed discrimination against those of Jewish or Italian extraction, he fought back.

When America entered the war, Pete threw himself into the fight on the home front. He dedicated all his energies to speeding the day of victory, so that the lights *would* go on again soon and our boys be back with us in a better, happier world.

Everything he's ever done in the City Council has been done from that point of view—shortening the war by strengthening the home front and improving the lot of the common man.

Yes, let's look at Pete's record in office.



Pete made a number of pledges when he ran for office. He said that if elected he would

- fight the high cost of living;
- fight race hatred and discrimination;
- fight to improve the city's schools, hospitals and other facilities and improve conditions of city employees;
- do everything else in his power to strengthen the war effort.



Seeing Mama's market basket take wings and prices soaring, Pete promptly resolved to act. He got his first chance shortly after he was sworn in, when powerful interests tried to boost the 5-cent fare. Pete *acted*.

First he got to the people. He wrote a pamphlet backing the bill introduced in the State Legislature by State Senator Muzzicato, which provided for a freezing of the fare at 5 cents. He explained the issue in hundreds of letters to organizations all over the city and helped organize a large delegation to Albany. He personally went along with the delegation and spoke eloquently in favor of the Muzzicato Bill.

P.S. The Muzzicato Bill was passed and signed by the Governor. The 5-cent fare was saved, due to the efforts

of Pete Cacchione and others who rallied to that fight. Another price rise was halted.

But Pete wasn't content with that. He saw that all prices were rising. So he swiftly introduced measures

- to freeze rents (Res. 224)
- to keep milk and bread prices down (Res. 225 & 226)
- to back President Roosevelt and the OPA in a program designed to help the farmers produce more milk and more foodstuffs while keeping prices down to the consumers (Res. 188.)

But Pete did more than introduce bills and resolutions in the City Council. Confident that the people are the final source of strength, he went to the people with the issues. He organized delegations, mass meetings, petitions and every other conceivable form of pressure to roll back prices. He wrote to trade union and civic organizations, and addressed countless open air meetings. High prices to Pete aren't some cold figures in thick reports. They mean that extra bottle of milk for the kids, that sunlit apartment, that extra shirt.



Against Race Hatred

Pete is an American. That is, he believes deeply in the Constitution, that all men are born free and equal. Furthermore, he believes that the Constitution means exactly what it says when it speaks of equality.

He knows that race hatred is a weapon of Hitler to divide Americans—Negro from white, Jew from Gentile, native-born from foreign-born, Catholic from Protestant.

Because he wants to see a united America, he has done everything in his power to wipe out race hatred.

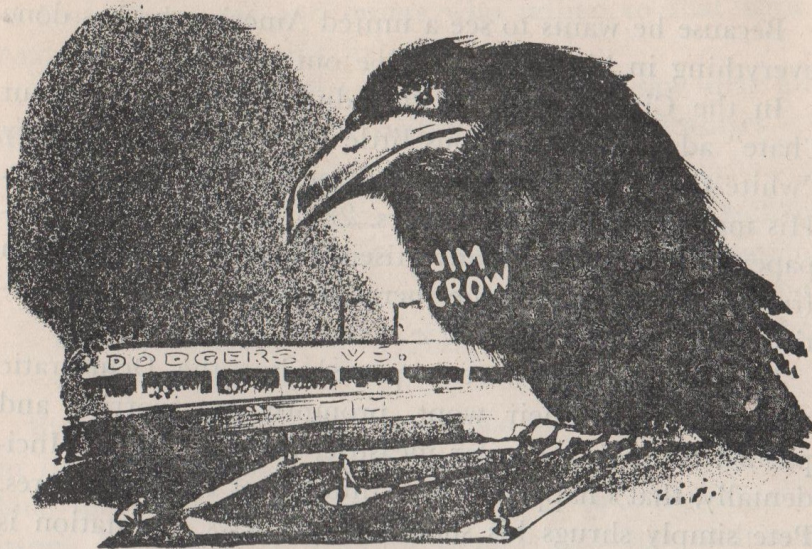
In the City Council he introduced bills to wipe out "hate" ads, those venomous little want ads which specify "white Christian only," "white Protestant only," etc., etc. His measures (Int. 75 and Res. 228) would punish newspapers which carry such advertisements by forbidding them from receiving any of the lucrative City and State advertising they now get.

P.S. Pete's bills weren't passed, but the Democratic majority, as in their wont, promptly got worried and pushed through a similar measure, the Hart Bill. (Incidentally, that's happened on a number of Pete's measures. Pete simply shrugs his shoulders and says, "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery" and lets it go at that. As Pete says, he has no pride of authorship. A good bill is a good bill, no matter who sponsors it.)

Pete has introduced legislation (Int. 248) to eliminate discrimination in the renting of apartments, in civil service, in business licenses, in places of public accommodation. This bill would compel the posting of the State Civil Right Law in all public places (hotels, restaurants, taverns, etc.) to acquaint people with their rights and point out that penalties can be levied for discrimination.

But Pete went further than introducing legislation against race hatred. He filed charges with License Commissioner Paul Moss against employment agencies which continued to discriminate. He was successful in his action and the Commissioner forced the employment agencies to change their practices. And that's typical of Peter. He not only wants to get good laws on the books but he wants to see them enforced—and he fights for their enforcement.

Knowing that jobs are the greatest concern of the Negro people and knowing how badly the war effort needs the



great reservoir of Negro manpower, Pete has led delegations to factories in Brooklyn, demanding that they hire Negroes. Brooklyn Negro leaders are well acquainted with the delegations that Pete led to the Metropolitan Engineering Company, at Atlantic and Nostrand Avenues.

Pete also led a delegation to Branch Rickey, owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers, urging that the Dodgers be the first to break down Jim Crow barriers and hire some of the superb Negro ball players now barred from the big leagues.

At every and any opportunity, he took action against anti-Negro and anti-Semitic agitation. It was Pete who introduced into the City Council, immediately after the Detroit riots, a resolution (Res. 308) calling on the Council to set up an investigating committee to ferret out all groups and individuals spreading race hatred and anti-Negro, anti-Jewish and Christian Front propaganda.

Like most of Pete's legislation, it was not palatable to the majority machine, which was put on the spot. They



tried to kill Res. 308 in committee, but were forced to debate the issue on the floor when Pete moved to discharge the committee from further consideration of his measure. The opposition couldn't meet the issues; all they could do was shout that it was an "election maneuver." However, the thoughtful members of the minority voted with Pete, including the distinguished Negro leader, the Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

It was Pete who introduced a resolution (Res. 318) calling for the removal from the police force of the anti-Semitic, anti-war Patrolman John Drew of Brownsville (who has already had to face one departmental trial).

Pete knows that discrimination doesn't end at the boun-

daries of New York City. He understands well that Congress must act in order to eliminate Jim Crowism. He therefore introduced a resolution (Res. 229) in support of the Marcantonio Anti-Poll Tax Bill, H.R. 7.

Feb. 16, Pete urged the New York City Congressmen to aid in getting the Marcantonio Anti-Poll Tax Bill out of committee (Res. 229). P.S. The bill got out of committee and was passed by the House. After it was passed Pete, his eye on the ball, introduced another resolution (Res. 302) urging Senators Wagner and Mead to back it.

Pete not only introduced a series of bills and resolutions. He voted for every bill in the Council which would help to wipe out racial discrimination.

Because he is so active in promoting inter-racial harmony, Pete has been endorsed by both Negro and white leaders. It is no accident that the Citizens Non-Partisan Committee for the Re-Election of Peter V. Cacchione has as its vice-chairman a leading Negro minister and vice-president of the Baptist Ministers' Alliance, Rev. Thomas S. Harten, of the Holy Trinity Baptist Church, Brooklyn.

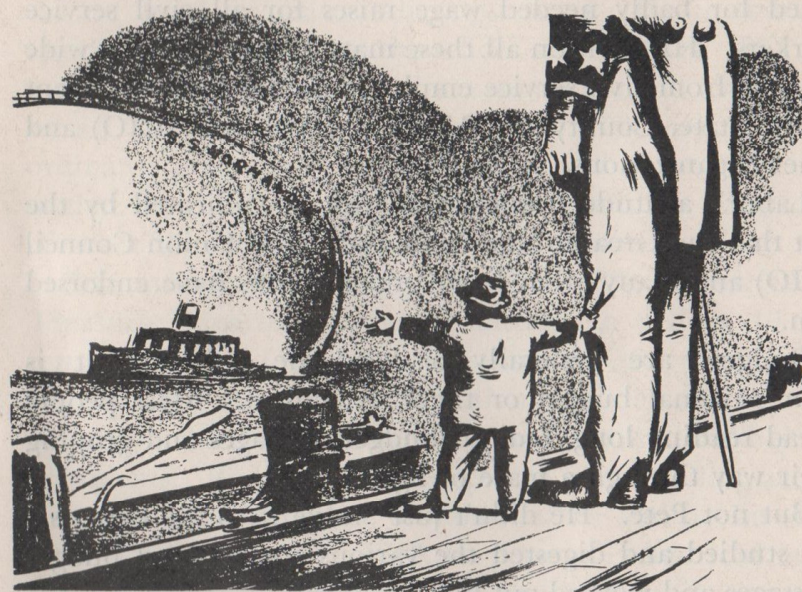


Pete is a worker. He knows the things that go to make up a worker's life. He knows, for example, how much that morning and evening rush-hour subway trip can take out of a working-man or working-woman, particularly at a time when labor is straining every effort to produce for the war.

He made a personal investigation of transit conditions in the city and of how overcrowded many lines are, particularly at peak hours. He worked out a very careful plan for staggering working hours in order to relieve traffic congestion. He wrote to many cities where they have such plans and got a report on how they worked

out. He discussed the matter with the War Manpower Commission representatives in New York and got their approval of the basic idea.

Finally, Pete introduced a resolution (Res. 203) in the City Council calling for the creation of a committee to work out a city-wide plan for staggering working hours and forced a public hearing on it. At this hearing Pete was backed by representatives of organized labor and numerous civic groups. His plan, however, was killed by the committee, which apparently preferred to continue overcrowded conditions rather than adopt a proposal made by Councilman Cacchione.



Shortly after the Normandie burning, Pete, who is well aware of conditions of the waterfront, introduced a resolution (Res. 116) calling for the investigation of the whole situation in order to eliminate the possibility of fire and sabotage and in order to facilitate the shipment of war materials from our port. Despite support by the National

Maritime Union and rank and file longshoremen, this bill, too, was killed in committee.

Nevertheless, Pete's public efforts had effect. The federal government stepped in and waterfront conditions were materially improved.

Labor, Civil Service and the Budget

Pete has supported every proposal to improve the conditions of the underpaid civil service employees. He voted for real collective bargaining for all civil service workers and was leader of the fight in the Council to protect the civil service system of wage increases. He voted for badly needed wage raises for all civil service workers. His fight on all these matters has won him wide support from civil service employees and the endorsement of the State, County and Municipal Workers (CIO) and other organizations.

Labor's attitude towards him can be indicated by the fact that the Greater New York Industrial Union Council (CIO) and many other labor organizations have endorsed him.

Budgets are generally a headache, whether it is your personal budget or the City budget. Most people dread reading long, tedious budget messages and groping their way through a maze of figures.

But not Pete. He didn't just "leave it to the experts." He studied and digested the various complicated budget messages and worked out his own ideas.

Pete quickly saw that the City was reaching the end of its financial rope and that it couldn't finance essential social services out of real estate taxes alone. He saw that the State was getting far too much out of taxes collected in New York City and introduced a resolution (Res. 263) urging the Governor and legislative leaders at Albany to

pass legislation granting New York City a larger share of State tax receipts and increasing the City's power to tax utilities and financial businesses. After Governor Dewey announced that he anticipated a \$70,000,000 surplus, Pete organized a vigorous fight for a special session of the State Legislature and introduced a special resolution (Res. 273) to that end. A bitter fight on the floor took place on the issue, with the Democratic machine members, curiously enough, coming to the aid of Governor Dewey, and the minority—Laborites, Independents and two out of three Republicans—voting with Pete.

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Pete acted on many other questions. He introduced legislation to strengthen the school system (Res. 187) and a resolution (Res. 325) to increase allotments to soldiers' wives, and another resolution (Res. 326) urging a coordinated program of nursery schools and after-school care so that the children of drafted fathers could be taken care of while their mothers took jobs in war industry.

Pete introduced a resolution (Res. 130), supported by Treasury Department representatives, to deduct 10 per cent from each Councilman's salary for the purchase of war bonds. P.S. That resolution was defeated by the majority which had no answer to it except red-baiting arguments. But that didn't stop Pete's bond-selling activities. He sold bonds at outdoor rallies and at his own office until by October 1943, he personally had sold more than \$320,000 worth, mainly in small denominations.

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That's the record. It's the record of a man who has never forgotten that this country is at war and that the home front must be strengthened if we are to win this war. It is on that record that citizens of many political faiths agree that Pete has earned re-election.

City Council — 1942-43 — Record on Selected Bills

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Byrne				+	+			-	-	-	+	-	-		+	-	A	-
Cacchione	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Carroll	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Casey	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Christensen	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Cohen	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Conrad	+	+	+	NV	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
DiFalco	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Digiovanna	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Donovan	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Earle	A	A	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
L. Goldberg	+	+	NV	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
M. Goldberg	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hart	+	+	A	+	+	NV	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	A	A
Isaacs	+	+	NV	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Kinsley	+	+	+	NV	A	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Klein	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	NV	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
McCarthy	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Ninfa	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Nugent	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Phillips	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Powell	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Quinn	+	+	+	NV	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Schick	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Sharkey	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Vogel	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS

(Plus sign does not necessarily mean that the Councilman voted FOR the bill. He may have cast a progressive ballot by voting AGAINST a measure.)

Plus means a progressive vote.

Minus means a bad vote.

NV means that the Councilman recorded himself as "Not Voting."

A means Absent.

The blank spaces in the boxes opposite Miss Byrnes' name indicates that Miss Byrnes had not then been appointed to the Council to replace former Councilman Charles Keegan, on leave with the Army.

KEY TO BILLS

1. Prohibiting contractors with City from discriminating in employment because of race, color or creed (Council No. 13).
2. Prohibiting advertisements by employment agencies restricting offers of employment to persons of particular race, creed or color, unless prospective employer specifies restrictions in writing and has name in advertisement (Council No. 25).
3. Requesting Board of Higher Education to end discrimination against Negroes on staffs of City colleges and to make appointments hereafter on basis of merit, regardless of race, creed or color (Res. No. 31).
4. Requesting Board of Estimate to include in contracts for post-war housing projects covenants prohibiting discrimination in selection of tenants because of race, creed or color (Res. No. 301).
5. Prohibiting increase in city fares unless approved by voters in referendum (Council No. 42).

6. Providing for adoption of expense budget for fiscal year 1942-43 as adopted by Board of Estimate (Res. No. 124).
7. Requesting Board of Estimate to grant general wage increases to all city employees (Res. No. 185).
8. Requesting special session of Legislature to assist City in financial burdens (Res. No. 273).
9. Sales tax—extending 1 per cent tax to June 30, 1944 (Council No. 282).
10. Vote on cutting Mayor's budget for 1933-44 (Res. No. 292).
11. Utility, etc., tax bills (Council Nos. 282-86).
12. Providing for payment on per annum basis for all competitive employees in Park Department and dividing employees into uniformed, administrative and clerical forces (Council No. 228).
13. Vote on overriding Mayor's vetoes re budget for 1943-44 (Res. No. 292).
14. Providing for appointment of committee to continue examination into affairs of Civil Service Commission (Res. No. 7).
15. Requesting Governor and State War Council to extend child care program to include children of men who work nights (Res. No. 274).
16. Providing for appointment of special committee to investigate all matters relating to property, government and affairs of New York City.
17. To permit employment of hospital helpers and attendants who have signified their intentions of becoming citizens, in the Department of Hospitals (Council No. 179).
18. Vote on discharging from committee the Cacchione resolution to investigate groups and individuals inciting race hatred (Res. 308).

MEASURES INTRODUCED BY PETER V. CACCHIONE IN THE CITY COUNCIL

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|----------|-----|---|
| Int. No. | 75 | Ads in publications which discriminate. |
| | 89 | Tom Mooney Park, designate. |
| | 139 | Armed forces, free transportation for. |
| | 215 | Fire drills, require. |
| | 223 | Budget, power to increase. |
| | 248 | Places of public accommodation, discrimination in. |
| Res. No. | 8 | Armed forces, free city transportation for. |
| | 9 | Armed forces, free transportation on private lines for. |
| | 66 | Ads in publications which discriminate. |
| | 116 | Waterfront, investigate. |
| | 130 | War bonds, salary deductions for. |
| | 187 | Board of Education budget, basis of. |
| | 188 | O.P.A., rationing by. |
| | 203 | Working hours, stagger. |
| | 215 | Housing authority, change rules. |
| | 223 | Race discrimination, prohibit. |
| | 224 | Rents, freezing. |
| | 225 | Bread, halt price rise in. |
| | 226 | Milk, reduce price of. |
| | 227 | Advertisements which discriminate, prohibit. |
| | 228 | State advertising, restrict. |
| | 229 | Poll tax, abolish. |
| | 263 | State taxes, increase N. Y. C. share. |
| | 273 | Special session, requesting. |
| | 302 | Anti-poll tax bill, passage of. |
| | 308 | Racial antagonism, investigate inciters of. |
| | 318 | Patrolman Drew, suspend. |
| | 322 | Voting hours, extend. |
| | 325 | Soldiers' allotments, increase. |
| | 326 | Nursery schools and after-school care of children, co-ordinate. |

BACK THE ATTACK — BUY WAR BONDS

Political Advertisement

Political Advertisement

VOTE NO. 1 ON THE PAPER BALLOT

for

PETER V. CACCHIONE

for

CITY COUNCIL



RE-ELECT A FIGHTER FOR FREEDOM

A Man Who Fights for

- ¶ Unity behind our Commander-in-Chief,
President Roosevelt**
- ¶ Victory over the Axis**
- ¶ Equality of all Peoples**



Citizens Committee to Re-Elect Peter V. Cacchione

Dr. Howard Selsam, Chairman; William Albertson, Secretary

Rev. Thomas S. Harten, Miss Anna Ventura, Vice-Chairmen

16 Court St., Brooklyn 2, N. Y.

Telephone: TRiangle 5-7484